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Select Miscellany.

Returned to Life.

THE MOST SINGULAR CASE OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE ON RECORD—THE VICTIM TURNING UP TWO YEARS AFTER HIS ALLEGED ASSASSIN'S EXECUTION.

From the New York Sunday Dispatch.

It is only within the present century that the law has required, in case of murder, the finding and identification of the victim. Previous to that, if a man disappeared, and his absence could not be accounted for, a person to whom circumstantial evidence pointed as his probable murderer could be arrested and hanged for the alleged crime. A most extraordinary case, which occurred during the war between England and France, first called attention to the singular law, and was ultimately the cause of its being replaced by the statute as it now stands. The story is substantially as follows:

Two Englishmen, uncle and nephew, took up their quarters at a well-known inn in Portsmouth, close to the pier. They were well received by the landlord, for they had plenty of money in their possession. The uncle, whom we will call William, suggested to his companion, who shall be called Robert, in the hearing of the landlord, that they should hand their money to their host for safe-keeping. Robert objected, and proposed that they should keep it on their persons. This was agreed to.

At night they occupied the same room and the same bed. The inn was an old-fashioned irregular building. From their bed-room the two men could enter a long passage which ran along the end of the house to the pier. They went to their room about 11 o'clock at night. Next morning Robert entered the landlord's room with a hurried, anxious air, and asked the landlord whether he knew what had become of his uncle. The landlord said he did not. At the same time he observed with horror that the hands of Robert were stained with blood. The landlord arose and suggested that they should go to the bed-room together. They did so. On entering, a terrible spectacle met the landlord's gaze. The clothes of the bed which had evidently been occupied by two persons, were stained all over with blood. The outside pillow was saturated with it. The floor by the bedside was stained with it. The washbasin and the stand were also bespattered with blood. On the dressing table lay a large jockeys' or sailor's knife, the handle and blade all bloody. Drops of blood marked the floor from the bedside to the door which opened upon the passage referred to. The landlord told Robert the case was a very suspicious one, and that he must place it in the hands of the authorities. He did forthwith. Robert was arrested. On being searched, his shirt was found to be bloody. Bloodstains were discovered in the passage from the bedroom door to the water's edge, where apparently there had been a struggle. On Robert were found the purse and papers of the missing man.

Robert, who manifested coolness and presence of mind, told the following story: After his uncle and himself had been in bed a short time the former, who lay on the outside, complained that his nose was bleeding. He leaned over the side of the bed. Presently he got up and went to the washstand. He used water freely, but in vain. The bleeding still continued, and so violently that the men both became alarmed. Robert suggested the application of cold iron to the back of his uncle's neck. He took his jackknife out of his pocket and applied it accordingly. In attending to his uncle's hands and shirt, were stained with blood. As the bleeding still continued, William dressed himself and said he would go out at the side door and walk on the pier in the cold morning air. Before doing so he handed his pocket-book and purse to his nephew to keep until his return. Robert fell asleep after his uncle left, and was astonished when he awoke in the morning to find that he had not returned.

Robert was indicted for murder. All the circumstances were against him. The jury believed that William had been murdered and his body carried down to the water and flung in. Robert was convicted and sentenced to be hanged, and hanged he was accordingly in a few days.

Two years afterwards the missing man returned. He confirmed every word that his nephew had uttered in his defence. When William reached the pier on the night of the supposed murder he turned to the left, and had gone only a few paces when he was pounced upon by a press-gang. He was overpowered and carried to a boat, and in an hour found himself on board a British sloop of war in Southampton waters. The vessel was getting under way. In her he remained for three months without a chance of writing to his friends. Then the ship was captured by a French frigate, and William spent twenty months in a French prison. On his release he returned to England to find to his horror that his beloved nephew had been hanged as his assassin.

A distinguished writer says: "There is a passage in the bible where the girls are commanded to kiss the men, and there is the golden rule, 'Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them.'"

The Chinese and Japanese.

Mr. James Brooks of the New York Express, in a letter from China, says "the Chinese impress the traveller deeply by their great initiative powers, powers of endurance, and wonderful industry. No people work harder; not even the universal Yankee nation. Their love of money is beyond what any other people seem to have. Very few nations could stand in competition with them if they had American education and American bravery."

"As mechanics they are capable of anything. Then they can live on little or nothing—on vegetables almost altogether—and their clothes cost little or nothing. Nevertheless, England, Germany, and America largely find them in their clothes, for the spinning jenny does not eat at all or need clothes, and the Chinaman must have some of both. Luxury seems to be forbidden in China. Even the rich do not indulge in it, and it is hard to tell by any outward signs the rich from the poor man, either in his exterior or in his dwelling."

"But the Japanese are by far the most interesting people. They have not the solidity or stability of the Chinese, but they are a far more interesting people, and learn faster and more cheerfully than the Chinese of all that is new and of all the progress the great outside world is making. Both their agriculture and their manufactures seem to be quite superior to the Chinese. China is not near as well cultivated as I expected to see it, while in Japan, in most parts, agriculture is carried to a very high degree of perfection. There must be more people to the square mile in Japan than in China, and the farms must supply more food for the population. The population of China must be over-estimated by 100,000,000. There cannot be 400,000,000 people there, and I doubt if there are 300,000,000. Peking has no two millions of people in it, as some say—no, not one million—while Canton must be much the most populous place. But in most parts of China the struggle for life, or to live, seems greater than in Japan."

The Old-Fashioned Mother.

Thank God! some of us have an old-fashioned mother. Not a woman of the period, enameled and painted, with her great chignon, her curls and bustle, whose white, jeweled hands, have never felt the clasp of baby fingers, but a dear old-fashioned, sweet voiced mother, with eyes in whose depths the love light shone, and brown hair threaded with silver, lying smooth upon her faded cheek. Those dear hands, worn with toil, guided our tottering steps in childhood and smoothed our pillow in sickness, even reaching out to us in yearning tenderness when her sweet spirit was baptized in the pearly spray of the river.

Blessed is the memory of an old-fashioned mother. It floats to us now, like the beautiful perfume of some woodland blossom. The music of other voices may be lost, but the entrancing memory of her will echo in our souls forever. Other faces will fade away and be forgotten, but hers will shine until the light from Heaven's portals shall glorify our own.

When in the fitful pauses of busy life, our feet wander back to the old homestead, and crossing the well-worn threshold, stand once more in the low quaint room, so hallowed by her presence, how the feelings of childish innocence and dependence come over us, and we kneel down in the mellow sunshine, streaming through the western window—just where long years ago we knelt by our mother's knee, lifting "Our Father."

How many times, when the tempter lures us on, has the memory of those sacred hours, that mother's words, her faith and prayers, saved us from plunging into the abyss of sin? Years have filled great rifts between her and us, but they have not hidden from our sight the bright glory of her pure and unselfish love.

A Remarkable Prophecy.

The following which is known as "Mother Ship-ton's Prophecy," was first published in 1483, and republished in 1611. It will be noticed that all the events predicted in it, except that mentioned in the last two lines—which is still in the future—have already come to pass:

Carriages without horses shall go,
And accidents fill the world with woe.
Around the world thoughts shall fly
In the twinkling of an eye.
Waters shall yet more wonders do;
Now strange yet shall be true.
The world upside down shall be,
And gold be found at root of tree.
Through hills men shall ride,
And no horse or ass be at his side.
Under water men shall walk;
Shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk.
In the air men shall be seen,
In white, in black, in green.
Iron in the water shall float,
As easy as a wooden boat.
Gold shall be found and found
In a land that's not now known.
Fire and water shall wonders do.
England shall at last admit a Jew.
The world to an and shall come
In eighteen hundred and eighty-one.

Dress Plainly, Girls.

An old man, who knows what he is talking about, says: "Girls, let me tell you a stubborn truth. No young woman ever looked so well to a sensible man, as when dressed in plain, neat, modest attire, without a single ornament about her person. She looks then as though she possessed wealth in herself and needed no artificial rigging to enhance her value. If a young woman would spend as much time in cultivating kindness, meekness, mercy and other good qualities, as most of them do in extra dress and ornament, to increase their personal charms, she would, at a glance, be known among a thousand; her character would be read in her countenance, and there her beauty would be found."

Russia has only 10,000 doctors, which is one to 7,182 people. In some districts there is no physician within less than a day's journey.

The great plains of Texas contain 152,000,000 acres.

Nearly forty ladies are candidates for the various clerkships of the Iowa Legislature.

Proposed Introduction of Linen Industry in Virginia.

The representative of a large linen manufactory in Ireland, is now prospecting in Virginia, with a view to establishing an extensive manufactory in our State. The reason for the change is that the land in Ireland, so long devoted to the production of flax, has so deteriorated that the fibre is too short for successful spinning, and the machinery and skilled labor employed in close proximity to more extensive and better supplies of raw material. This Irish gentleman is favorably impressed with many of the advantages which our State presents, and is strongly prejudiced in favor of Lynchburg as the point for his future operations.—Richmond State Journal.

The Lowell of the South.

Columbus, Georgia, has added a broom factory to her many other industries, whereupon the Macon Telegraph remarks: "Columbus is setting a noble example to the South. Besides her thousands of looms and spindles for converting cotton and wool into cloths and yarns, she is manufacturing all sorts of domestic wooden ware, furniture, carriage and wagon findings, axe helves, agricultural implements, and now she has started a broom factory."

The Augusta Factory of that city, declared during the last six months of the year two dividends of five per cent. each, a dividend of five per cent. on the 1st inst., by way of a New Year's gift to the stockholders, and made a further addition to the company's surplus fund. Who says manufactory will not pay in the South?

From Mexico we have the glad tidings that the rebellion is virtually suppressed, and that the people desire annexation, although the politicians oppose the scheme. An annexation paper, published in Spanish and English, will soon be started at the capital, and the prospects of peace are in every respect gratifying. Gen. Rocha, at the head of 2,500 men is marching on San Luis in order to save that city from the revolutionists. He will then proceed to the Rio Grande. Cortina is still recognized as a General in the service of the President Juarez, who is using dictatorial powers with great moderation, with the exception of forced contributions and the pressing of men into the army.—N. Y. Express.

Comparative Naval Strength.

Could we cope with Spain at sea? This is a fair question, and one which implies no disrespect to our Naval Administration. It is, however, well to consider such a question. The Spanish navy, ready for action, consists of seventy-three screw steamers, carrying 734 guns; twenty-four paddle steamers, carrying 127 guns, and thirteen sailing vessels, carrying 202; while our navy consists of forty-six ironclads, ninety-seven steamers, and thirty-two sailing vessels, all mounting 1,866 guns; but actually ready only 356 guns.—It will thus be seen that the forces of the Spaniards are quite as formidable as ours.

Report of Agricultural Bureau.

WASHINGTON, January 19.—The forthcoming January report of the Agricultural Department states that the Department is now principally receiving, for distribution to the South in liberal portions, for experimental purposes, improved varieties of field and sugar, and corn-field and garden peas and beans; Italian rye grass; lucern; mangel wurtzel and sugar beet; cabbage and onion seed. It will also receive during this month fresh seeds of the ramie and jute plants, the latter of which cannot be grown successfully north of Tennessee. Oats and barley of approved varieties have been ordered from Scotland and Germany and will be distributed in ample time for spring sowing. A choice variety of white spring wheat, grown in Oregon, from seed imported from Australia, has just been distributed in the northwestern States and Territories.

In exhuming the bodies from an old graveyard in Wilson, Niagara county, last week, it was found that the body of a Mrs. Wilson, buried forty years ago, had become perfectly petrified, while that of her husband in the adjoining grave had entirely disappeared. The features were perfect, but of a discolored, dingy appearance. In lifting the body one of the feet were broken off, showing the interior to be solid, and white and brittle as chalk.—It was a hard lift for four men to raise the remains, which was estimated to weigh from five to six hundred pounds. The body was reinterred in another cemetery.

Busy Childhood.—Do you ever think how much work a little child does in a day? How, from sunrise to sunset, the dear little feet patter round—to no—so aimlessly? Climbing up here, kneeling down there, running to another place, but never still. Twisting and turning, rolling and reaching and doubling, as if testing every bone and muscle for their future uses. It is very curious to watch it. One who does so may well understand the deep breathing of the rosy little sleeper, as, with one arm tossed over its curly head, it prepares for next day's gymnastics. A busy creature is a little child.

Your "Old Minister."—Dr. Withington of Newbury once said in a charge to the people at an ordination or installation service, "Don't tell your new minister when he calls upon you, how much you loved your old minister. It's very common with many people, when a new minister comes among them, to keep telling him how much they love their old minister. It makes me think of a certain man I knew, who lost his wife and married another; he kept telling his second wife how much he loved his first one, when everybody knew that he quarrelled her to death."

A negro preacher once observed to his hearers at the close of his sermon as follows: "My obstinate brethren, I find it no more easy to preach to you than it is for a grasshopper to wear knee bucklers."

From the Wilmington Journal.

AN ACT TO RAISE REVENUE.

SCHEDULE A.

Section 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact, That the taxes hereinafter designated, payable in the ordinary course of business, shall be assessed and collected according to the rules and regulations hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2. On every taxable poll or male between twenty-one and fifty, excepted persons as hereinafter provided, shall be levied an annual tax of one dollar and five cents, such tax to be devoted to the education of the poor, and any poll tax not so expended shall be paid into the treasury of the State.

Sec. 3. The taxes hereinafter designated shall be applied to defray the expenses of the State government and to pay appropriations for charitable and penal institutions.

CLASS 1.

Sec. 1. There shall be an ad valorem tax of 16 2/3 cents for the general fund on every one hundred dollars in value of real and personal property in the State, subject to exemptions made by law, including moneys, credits, bonds, stocks, &c.

Sec. 2. A special tax of twelve cents on the one hundred dollars shall be levied and collected on all the taxable property of the State, to be applied to the erection of the penitentiary and the support of the convicts.

Sec. 3. A special tax of eight and one third cents on the hundred dollars shall be levied and collected on all the taxable property of the State for the Insane Asylum and the Institution for Deaf, Dumb and Blind.

CLASS 2.

The subjects and persons mentioned in the following class shall be taxed as specially mentioned:

Sec. 1. On the net income and profits other than that derived from property taxed from any source whatever, during the year preceding the first day of April in each year, there shall be a tax of one per cent. The income tax shall include interest on the securities of the United States, of this State, or other State or Government. In estimating the net income the only deduction by way of expense shall be:

1. Taxes other than the income tax due this State.

2. Rent for use of buildings or other property or interest on encumbrances on property used in the business from which the income is derived.

3. Useful or ordinary repairs of the buildings from which the income is derived.

4. Cost or value of the labor, (except that of the tax payer himself,) raw material, food and all other necessary expenses incidental to the business from which the income is derived, together with the necessary expenses of supporting the family, which shall in no instance exceed one thousand dollars.

The tax payer shall return to the assessor the gross amount of his income and the gross amount of his expenses to be deducted therefrom, which return the assessor shall file in the office of the county commissioners.

Sec. 2. Upon all real and personal estate, whether legal or equitable, situated within the State, which shall descend or be devised or bequeathed to any collateral relation or person, other than a lineal descendant or ancestor of the husband or wife of the deceased, or husband or wife of such ancestor or descendant, or to which collateral relations may be come entitled under the law for the distribution of the intestate estates, and which real and personal estate may not be required in payment of debts and other liabilities, the following per centum tax upon the value thereof shall be paid:

1. If such collateral relation be a brother or sister of the father or mother of the deceased, or issue of such brother or sister, a tax of one per cent.

2. If such collateral relation be a more remote relation or the devise or legatee be a stranger, a tax of two and a half per cent. The real estate liable to taxation shall be listed by the devise or heir in a separate column, designating its proper per cent. tax. The personal estates or real estate reduced to assets shall be liable to the tax in the hands of the executor or administrator, and shall be paid by him before his administration account is audited or the real estate is settled to the sheriff of the county. If the real estate descended or devised shall not be the entire inheritance, the heir or devise shall pay pro rata part of the tax, corresponding with the relative value of the estate or interest. If the legacy or distributive share to be received shall not be the entire property, such legatee or distributee shall like manner pay a pro rata part of the tax according to the value of his or her interest. Whenever the personal property in the hands of such administrator or executor (the same not being needed to be converted into money, in the course of the administration) shall be of uncertain value, he shall apply to the county commissioners to appoint three impartial men of probity to assess the value thereof, and such assessment being returned to the commissioners, and being confirmed, shall be conclusive of the value.

To facilitate the collection of tax on collaterals, every executor or administrator shall return in his inventory whether the estate of the deceased goes to the lineal or collateral relations or to a stranger, and to collaterals, whether such collateral belong to the first or the second class above stated, under a penalty of one hundred dollars to be recovered in the name and for the use of the State; and it shall be the duty of the superior court clerk of the county to furnish the sheriff with the names of the executors and the administrators who make such returns, after each every term of his court.

SCHEDULE B.

The taxes in this schedule imposed are license taxes for the privilege of carrying on the business or doing the act named; and nothing in this schedule contained shall be construed to relieve any person from the payment of the ad valorem tax on his property as required by the preceding schedule, and no county, city, town or other municipal corporation, shall levy any greater tax than levied by the State for the privileges herein taxed.

Sec. 1. On every exhibition of a circus or menagerie, for each day or a part of a day, forty dollars; and for each side show to a circus or menagerie, ten dollars.

Sec. 2. On all itinerant companies or persons, who exhibit for amusement of the public, otherwise than as mentioned in the preceding sections, five dollars for each exhibition. Exhibitions given without charge for admission, and when one-half gross receipts are given to charitable objects, shall be exempt.

Sec. 3. On all gift enterprises, or any person or establishment offering any article for sale, and proposing to present purchasers with any gift or prize as an inducement to purchase, one per cent. on the gross receipts. And upon any lottery, whether known as a Beneficial Association or otherwise, \$500, and 5 per cent. on gross receipts to be paid to the State Treasurer. This tax shall not be construed as a license, or to relieve such persons or establishments from any penalties incurred by a violation of the law.

Sec. 4. Every agency of a bank, incorporated out of the State, one hundred dollars, to be paid to the State Treasurer.

Sec. 5. The tax on billiard saloons shall be twenty dollars on each table. Every place where a billiard table is kept for hire shall be considered a billiard saloon within the meaning of this act.

Sec. 6. On every bowling alley, or alley of like kind, or bowling saloon, bagatelle table, stand or place for any other game or play, with or without a name, unless such alley, stand, place or game is kept for private amusement or exercise alone, and not prohibited by law, there shall be a license tax of twenty dollars.

Sec. 7. Every dealer in spirituous, vinous liquors, porter, lager beer, or other malt liquors, shall pay a tax of five per cent. on the amount of purchase; and every agent who offers liquors for sale, shall pay this tax on the value of all liquors of any description sold by him.

Sec. 8. Every licensed retailer of spirituous liquors, wine or cordials, twenty-five dollars for one year. Every retailer of malt liquors only, shall pay fifteen dollars. The tax in this section shall be in addition to the tax imposed on purchases of liquors in this schedule, and every person who buys and sells such liquors in quantities less than one quart shall, within the meaning of this act, be a retail dealer.

Sec. 9. Every merchant, jeweler, grocer, druggist and every other trader, who as principal or agent carries on the business of buying or selling goods, wares or merchandise of whatever name or description except the products of manufactures of this State, one-eighth of one per cent. on the total amount of his purchases in or out of the State for cash or on credit. Provided, That no retail merchant shall be required to pay any tax on any purchase made from wholesale merchants residing in the State; and it shall be the duty of the sheriff to demand that every merchant, or other person required to list his purchases, who may do business in his county, shall pay tax on the same as the law requires, said taxes to be collected by the sheriff on the first day of January, April, July and October, in each year, on the purchases for the preceding quarter. The sheriff shall have power to require the merchant making such statement to submit his books to examination, by the sheriff, and every merchant refusing to demand to submit his books to such examination, shall be liable to a penalty to the State of two hundred dollars, to be prosecuted by the sheriff and recovered in any court having jurisdiction of the case. It shall further be the duty of the sheriff to bring suit against every merchant refusing as aforesaid, in the Superior Court of the county, as may be prescribed for special proceedings, to the end of obtaining such examination and compelling payment of the proper tax.

Sec. 10. On the net receipts of hotels, boarding houses, (except those used for educational purposes and as private boarding houses), restaurants and eating houses, the tax shall be one per cent.

Sec. 11. The tax on public ferries, toll bridges and gates across highways, one per cent. on net receipts.

Sec. 12. Every money or exchange, bond or note broker, private banker, or agent of a foreign broker or banker in addition to the ad valorem tax on their capital invested, or the tax on their net income, shall pay, if employing a capital of twenty thousand dollars, a license tax of one hundred dollars; if a capital of less than twenty thousand dollars, and not less than ten thousand dollars, fifty dollars; and if a capital of ten thousand dollars or less, a tax of twenty-five dollars; and also ten dollars additional for each county in which they have an agency, the tax to be paid to the Public Treasurer, the license to be given by the Auditor.

Sec. 13. Every person who, for himself or as agent for another, sells riding vehicles not manufactured within the State, shall pay two per cent. on his sales.

Sec. 14. Every auctioneer on all goods, wares or merchandise, sold by himself or agent, whether by ascending or descending bids, or at public outcry, shall pay one per cent. on the gross amount of his sales, subject to all the regulations and exemptions set forth in tenth chapter of the revised code, entitled "Auctions and Auctioneers;" but this shall not apply to tobacco warehousemen who shall pay a license of thirty-five dollars a year. Nor to persons who keep a warehouse exclusively for the sale of cotton where all who wish may exhibit cotton for sale, but the person keeping such warehouse shall pay a license tax of fifty dollars.

Sec. 15. Every commission merchant shall pay a tax of one eighth of one per cent. on his sales as commission merchant, of all articles not the growth or manufacture of this State. Provided, That when spirituous, vinous or malt liquors are sold by commission merchants, they shall pay one per cent. on their sales of

Sec. 16. Every itinerant dentist, medical practitioner, portrait or miniature painter, daguerrean artist and other persons taking likenesses of the human face, ten dollars for each county in which he carries on his business: Provided, That such person as shall furnish satisfactory evidence to the sheriff of the county in which he proposes to practice, that he is a resident of the State, and has listed his income as required by law, shall be exempt from the tax imposed in this paragraph.

Sec. 17. Every person that peddles goods, wares or merchandise, either by land or water, or any drugs, nostrums or medicines, whether such person shall travel on foot or with a conveyance or otherwise, except manufacturers or their agents, selling by sample, shall have obtained from the commissioners an order to the sheriff to grant him peddler's license to expire at the end of six months from its date, and the sheriff, on production of a copy of such order certified by the clerk of said commissioners, shall grant such license for his country on receipt of ten dollars tax, to-wit: 1st. That no more than one person shall peddle under the license. 2d. That nothing in this section contained shall prevent any person freely selling live stock, vegetables, fruit, oysters, fish, books, charts, maps, printed music or the article of his own growth or manufacture within this State. 3d. That nothing herein contained shall release peddlers from paying the tax imposed in this act, or persons who deal in the same species of merchandise, which tax shall be collected or received in the same manner as is the case of other merchants and traders.

Sec. 18. Every itinerant who deals in or puts up lightning rods, five dollars for each county in which he carries on business.

Sec. 19. Every company of gipsies or strolling company of persons who make a support by pretending to tell fortunes or begging, fifty dollars in each county in which they offer to practice any of their craft, recoverable out of any property belonging to any one of the company, but nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to exempt them from indictment or penalties imposed by law.

Sec. 20. Every drummer, or travelling agent of any person who shall sell any spirituous liquors, vinous or malt liquors, goods, wares or merchandise; by sample or otherwise, whether delivered or to be delivered, except agricultural implements and fruit trees, and articles of his own growth or manufacture shall, before making any such sale, obtain a license to sell one year from the public treasurer, by paying said treasurer an annual tax of fifty dollars, but shall not be liable to be taxed in any county because of his sales. Any person violating the provisions of this paragraph shall be deemed guilty of a petty misdemeanor, and upon conviction before any magistrate, shall be fined not exceeding fifty dollars, or imprisoned not exceeding one month, and shall forfeit and pay besides two hundred dollars to the sheriff to be collected by distress or otherwise, one half of which shall be accounted for as other taxes, the other half to the use of the informer and the sheriff equally.

Sec. 21. The chief officers of banks, including Savings Banks and private bankers, shall in April and October of each year, certify on oath, the amount of dividends or profits which have been earned, and shall pay on such dividends five per cent. to the public treasurer; and such insurance companies as are incorporated by this State shall, in April and October of each year, certify on oath the amount of dividends and profits which have been earned, and shall pay on such dividends two per cent. On failure to comply with the provision of this section, said banks, companies or persons shall pay as taxes one thousand dollars, to be collected by the treasurer of the State.

Sec. 22. Every insurance company not incorporated in this State, doing business therein, shall pay an annual tax of one per cent. to the treasurer of the State, upon the gross receipts derived from the premiums charged for insurance obtained therein, unless the company shall exhibit to the Governor, auditor and treasurer a sworn statement of investments in real property situated in this State, secured by mortgage to the citizens of the State of an amount equal to one-half of such gross receipts, when the tax shall be one half of one per cent, said tax to be paid quarterly, viz: on the first day of April, July, October and January of each year. Each general agent shall be required on the above named days to make a statement to the treasurer, under oath that the amount by him returned is a full and correct statement of such quarter. On failure to comply with the provisions of this section, every such company shall pay as a tax two thousand dollars, and the principal agent shall be liable therefor. Every such company shall be required to appoint a general agent, who shall obtain a license from the treasurer before transacting any business therein, and before such license is granted, the applicant shall show to the treasurer his appointment as general agent, under seal of the company, and thereupon the license shall be granted by the payment of one hundred dollars, and such license shall be renewed annually by the payment of said sum. And it shall be the duty of said general agent to furnish each of his sub-agents with a commission authorizing him to do business. And any one found soliciting insurance without

such commission shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and be fined not less than one thousand dollars and imprisoned not less than ninety days. The agent affecting insurance shall, on the first days of April, July, October and January make returns to the sheriff of the county in which the insurance is effected, of all the business done by him during the preceding quarter in said county, and shall pay to him the county tax assessed on such business; the general agent shall also, on the first day of April, July, October and January, make return to the sheriff of each county of the amount of gross receipts for premiums received from such county for each quarter. It shall further be required of the general agent or his local agent to pay to the sheriff of each county the county tax assessed upon the gross receipts of premiums collected in such county, at the time and in the manner as required by the State, and no municipal corporation shall be allowed to add any additional tax: *Provided*, That no county or corporation shall be allowed to tax insurance agents for license. On failure to make returns, or to pay as aforesaid, said agent shall pay twenty-five dollars for each policy effected or negotiated by him in such county.

Sec. 27. No person shall follow any of the trades or professions taxed by this act, or in any other act, imposing taxes on trades and professions and franchises, without first obtaining a license from the sheriff of the county in which the trade or the profession is to be followed, or the franchise enjoyed, or the Treasurer of the State when the Treasurer is required to grant licenses. Such license shall give to the person obtaining it the right to practice the trade or profession, or to enjoy the franchise therein specified, in the county of the sheriff by whom it is issued, and in no other, unless the law imposing the tax shall otherwise direct, from its date to the following first day of April; *Provided*, That nothing in this section shall apply to licensed practicing physicians, lawyers or dentists.

Sec. 28. The form of the license shall be in substance as follows:
Received this _____ day of _____ 18____
_____ dollars, of which _____ dollars is the tax to the State of North Carolina, and _____ dollars is the tax to the county of _____, for his license to practice the trade (or profession) of _____ until the first day of April next.
Signed, _____ Sheriff of _____ County.
(Countersigned.) _____ C D

Register of Deeds for _____ County.
Sec. 29. Any person proposing to follow any taxed trade or profession may take out a license in advance of the time when he proposes to begin such trade or profession, in advance of the expiration of a license already held by him. In such case the license shall be truly dated, and shall specify the time at which it shall begin to be of force, as well as the time when it shall expire, which shall always be on the first days of January, April, July or October.

Sec. 30. No license issued by the sheriff shall be valid until the same shall have been exhibited to and countersigned by the register of deeds of the county, who shall receive for the services imposed on him, by this act in reference to licenses, a fee of twenty-five cents from every person licensed.

Sec. 31. The register of deeds shall keep a book, in which he shall record the name of the person licensed, the trade or profession to be followed, or the franchise to be enjoyed, the date at which it begins to run and the amount of the tax, and he shall, on the third Monday in January, April, July and October send a certified copy of such record for the quarter last preceding, to the Auditor of the State, who shall charge the sheriff with the amount so appearing due. If any register shall fail to perform the duty hereby imposed on him, he shall forfeit to the State a penalty of two hundred dollars, to be recovered of him and the sureties to his official bond, on motion in the superior court for the county of Wake; and on such motion a certified copy of his official bond and the certificate of the Auditor of the State, setting forth his failure to make the required return, shall be *prima facie* evidence entitling the State to judgment in the absence of any sufficient defence.

Sec. 32. Every person who shall practice any trade or profession, or use any franchise taxed by the law of North Carolina, without first having paid the tax and obtained a license as herein required, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and also forfeit and pay to the State a penalty not to exceed twenty dollars, at the discretion of the court, and in default of the payment of such fine, he may be imprisoned for not more than one month, at the discretion of the court, for every day on which he shall practice such trade or profession, or use such franchise, which penalty the sheriff of the county in which it has occurred shall cause to be recorded before any justice of the peace of the county.

Sec. 33. The sheriff shall immediately report to the register of deeds all sums recovered by him as penalties under this act, and the register shall add three-fourths of each penalty recovered to the record of licenses required to be kept by him; the other fourth the sheriff may retain.

SCHEDULE C.
The taxes embraced in Schedule C, shall be listed and as paid especially therein directed, and shall be for the privilege of carrying on the business or performing the act named:

Sec. 1. Every express company shall make return to the Public Treasurer on or before the first Monday in January, April, July and October of each year, of the entire gross earnings and receipt of such company within the State of North Carolina during the three months next preceding. The said report shall be verified by the oath of the chief officer or agent of the company at its principal office in the State. The said company shall, on or before the third Monday of each of the said months, pay on the gross receipts two per cent, for each three months, and for failure to make such report, or pay such tax, the company shall pay as taxes two thousand dollars, to be collected by such sheriff as the public treasurer may designate, by distress or otherwise.

Sec. 2. Every telegraph company doing business in this State shall at the times and in the manner prescribed in the preceding section, make report of the entire gross earnings and receipt of such company within the State, and in case of default of such report or payment the company shall pay as tax one thousand dollars, to be collected by such sheriff as the public treasurer shall designate, by distress or otherwise.

Sec. 3. Whenever the seal of the State or of the treasury department, of a notary

public, or other public officer, except clerk of the supreme and superior courts, required by law to keep a seal, shall be fixed to any paper except as is hereinafter excepted, the tax shall be as follows, to be paid by the party applying for the same: For the seal of the State, one dollar, to be collected and paid in the treasury by the private Secretary of the Governor; for the seal of the State Department, fifty cents, to be collected by the Secretary of State, and paid by him into the treasury; for the seal of the public treasurer, to be collected by him and accounted for as other public moneys, fifty cents; for the seal of the supreme court fifty cents to be collected by the clerk and paid by him into the treasury; and for the seal of a notary public or other public officer, twenty-five cents, to be collected and paid over by the said officer to the sheriff of the county where such seal is kept. Said officer shall keep an account of the number of times their seals may be used, and shall deliver to the proper officer a sworn statement thereof. Whenever a seal is used in the absence of a seal by any of said officers the said tax shall be on scroll, seals affixed for the use of any county or State or other government, or used on the commission of officers in the militia, justices of the peace, or any public officer not having a salary or under the pension law, or upon any process of court shall be exempt from taxation. The officers collecting the seal taxes may retain for compensation, five per cent. Any person receiving taxes under this section and willfully refusing to render to the proper officer the same as required, shall be guilty of embezzlement, and on conviction shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned in the State's prison in the discretion of the court.

Sec. 4. On each marriage license fifty cents, and on each marriage contract, mortgage deed and deed in trust to secure creditors where amount secured exceeds three hundred dollars, there shall be a tax of one dollar. The tax on marriage licenses shall be paid to the Register of Deeds when he issues the license, and the tax on deeds to the Judge of Probate of the county in which the instrument is admitted to registration, but in two or more counties, then in the county in which it is first registered. It shall be the duty of the Judge of Probate and Register of Deeds to return annually to the sheriffs during the second week in the month of September sworn statements in detail of the taxes received by them respectively, under this section, and at the same time pay him the money thus received, less four per cent. commissions, and thereupon the sheriff shall file the statement of the Judge of Probate with the Register of Deeds, and that of the latter with the Clerk of the Superior Court.

Sec. 5. On every charter of incorporation of any company granted by the General Assembly, other than those for charity, benevolence or literature, where the corporation had power to become incorporated under the provisions of any general law, and on any amendment of such charter, whether originally granted by the General Assembly or secured by letters patent or otherwise, there shall be a tax of twenty-five dollars paid directly to the public treasurer. No company shall be organized under such special act of incorporation, or derive benefit from any act to amend their charter, without first obtaining a certified copy of such act from the Secretary of State, which shall be filed in the office of the said Secretary.

Sec. 6. Whenever any officer receives or collects a fine, penalty or forfeiture in behalf of the State, he shall within ten days after such receipt or collection pay over and account for the same to the Clerk of the Superior Court, who shall forward such fine, penalty, or forfeiture to the treasurer of the board of education for the benefit of the fund for common schools.

Sec. 7. Any officer convicted of violating the preceding section shall be guilty of embezzlement, and may be punished not exceeding five years in the State prison, at the discretion of the court.

Sec. 8. All laws imposing taxes, the subjects which are revised in this act are hereby repealed; *Provided*, That this repeal shall not extend to the provisions of any law, so far as they relate to the taxes listed, or which ought to have been listed, or which may be due previous to the ratification of this act.

Sec. 9. All laws requiring taxes to be levied by the County Commissioners on or before the first Monday in February of each year are hereby repealed.

Sec. 37. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.
PASSED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 17, 1872.

AN ACT to alter the Constitution of North Carolina.
The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact (three-fifths of all the members of each House concurring,) That the Constitution of this State be altered as follows, to wit:

Amend section six, of the first article, by striking out the first clause thereof, down to, and including the word "but," this being the clause relating to the State debt.

Amend section two of the second article, by striking out the word "annually," and inserting in lieu thereof the word "biennially," in reference to the sessions of the General Assembly.

Amend section five of the second article, by striking out all that precedes the words, "the said Senate districts," and by striking out the phrase "as aforesaid or" in said section; the parts so stricken out having reference to the State census.

Add a new section to the second article to be styled "section 30," and to read as follows: "The members of the General Assembly shall each receive three hundred dollars as a compensation for their services during their term, subject to such regulations as may be made by law, and reduction for non-attendance as may be prescribed by law; but they may have an additional allowance when they are called together in special session, and mileage shall be ten cents per mile for each session."

Amend section one of the third article, by striking out the words "four years," where they occur first in said section, and inserting in lieu thereof, the words "two years," being in reference to the terms of executive officers.

Strike out the words "Superintendent of Public Works," wherever they occur in the Constitution, thus abolishing that office.

Amend section six of the third article by striking out the word "annually," and inserting in lieu thereof, the word "biennially," so as to conform to the provisions respecting the sessions of the General Assembly.

Strike out sections two and three of the fourth article, being the provisions which refer to the appointment and duties of the Code Commissioners.

Alter section four of the fourth article, so that said section shall read as follows: "The judicial power of the State shall be vested in a Court for the trial of impeachments, a Supreme Court, Superior Courts, such inferior Courts may be established by law, and Courts of Justice of the Peace."

Alter section eight of the fourth article, so that said section shall read as follows: "The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and two Associate Justices; *Provided*, That this shall not apply to the justices during their present term of office, unless by death, resignation, or otherwise, the number of Associate Justices shall be reduced to two."

Alter section twelve of the fourth article so that said section shall read as follows: "The State shall be divided into nine judicial districts, for each of which a judge shall be chosen; and in each district a Superior Court shall be held at least twice in each year, to continue for such time in each county respectively as may be prescribed by law. The General Assembly shall lay off said districts in due time, so that the said nine judges may be chosen and begin their official term at the first general election for members of the General Assembly which shall occur after the ratification of this section." The General Assembly may reduce or increase the number of Districts to take effect at the end of each judicial term.

Strike out section thirteen of the fourth article, which fixes the present judicial districts.

Amend section fourteen of the fourth article by striking out all after the word "office," and inserting in lieu of the part so stricken out the following: "The General Assembly shall prescribe a proper system of rotation for the judges of the Superior Courts, so that no judge may ride the same district twice in succession, and the judges may also exchange districts with each other, as may be provided by law."

Strike out section fifteen of the fourth article, and insert in lieu thereof, the following: "The General Assembly shall have no power to deprive the judicial department of any power or jurisdiction which rightfully pertains to it as a coordinate department; but the General Assembly shall allot and distribute that portion of this power and jurisdiction, which does not pertain to the Supreme Court, among the other Courts prescribed in this Constitution or which may be established by law, in such manner as it may deem best, and regulate by law when necessary the methods of proceeding, in the exercise of their powers, of all the courts below the Supreme Court, so far as the same may be done without conflict with other provisions of this Constitution."

Strike out sections sixteen, seventeen, nineteen, twenty-five and thirty-three of the fourth article.

Amend section twenty-six of the fourth article by striking out all that part which begins with the following word "but" in said section, and in lieu of the part so stricken out, inserting the following:

"The judicial offices and the election of any such which may be established by law, shall be chosen by the vote of the qualified electors, and for such term of years as may be prescribed by law. The voters as each precinct, established as is elsewhere provided for in this constitution, shall elect two justices of the peace for each term as may be fixed by law, whose jurisdiction shall extend through their respective counties. The General Assembly may provide for the election of more than two justices of the peace in those precincts which contain cities or towns, or in which other special reasons render it expedient. The chief magistrates of cities and incorporated towns shall have the judicial powers of justices of the peace."

Amend section thirty of the fourth article by striking out the word "township," and inserting in lieu thereof, the word "precincts," also in the last sentence of the same section, strike out the words "the commissioners of the county may appoint to such office for the unexpired term," and in lieu thereof insert "an appointment to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term shall be made as may be prescribed by law."

Amend sections one and seven of the fifth article by striking out the words "commissioners of the several counties" where they occur in said sections, and in lieu thereof inserting the words, "county authorities established and authorized by law."

Strike out section four of the fifth article relating to taxation to pay the State debt and interest.

Amend section six of the fifth article by inserting after the word "instrument" in said section the words or any other personal property."

Insert the word "and" before the word "surveyor" in section one of the 7th article, and strike out the words "and five commissioners" in said section; also add to said section the following: "The General Assembly shall provide for a system of county government for the several counties of the State."

Amend section two of the seventh article by striking out the word "commissioners," and in lieu thereof inserting the words "county authorities established and authorized by law;" and in the same section strike out the words "the Register of Deeds shall be ex officio clerk of the board of commissioners."

Strike out section three of the seventh article and in lieu thereof insert the following: "The county authorities established and authorized by law shall see that the respective counties are divided into a suitable number of sub-divisions, as compact and convenient in shape as possible, and marked out by definite boundaries, which may be altered when necessary. Said sub-divisions shall be known by the name of precincts. They shall have no corporate powers. The township governments are abolished. The boundaries of the precincts shall be the same which heretofore defined the townships until they shall be altered."

Strike out sections four, five, six, ten and eleven of the seventh article, which relate to the township system.

Amend sections eight and nine of the seventh article, by striking out the words "or townships" where they occur in said sections.

Strike out section three of the ninth article, and in lieu thereof insert the following: "The General Assembly shall make suitable provision by law for the management and regulations of the public schools, and for perfecting the system of free public instruction."

Strike out section five of the ninth article, and in lieu thereof, insert the following: "The General Assembly shall have power to provide for the election of Justices of the University of North Carolina, in whom, when chosen, shall be vested all the privileges, rights, franchises and endowments hereinafter in any wise granted to or conferred upon, the Board of Trustees of said University; and the General Assembly may make such provisions, laws and regulations, from time to time, as may be necessary and expedient, for the maintenance and management of said University."

Strike out sections thirteen, fourteen and fifteen of the ninth article, relating to the University of North Carolina. Amend section ten of the eleventh article by striking out the words "at the charge of the State," and in lieu thereof insert the words "by the State; and those who do not own property over and above the homestead and personal property exemption prescribed in this Constitution, or being minors, whose parents do not own property over and above the same shall be cared for at the charge of the State."

Alter section seven of the fourteenth article so that said section shall read as follows: "No person who shall hold any office or place of trust or profit under the United States, or any department thereof, or under this State, or under any other State or government, shall hold or exercise any other office or place of trust or profit under the authority of this State, or be eligible to a seat in either house of the General Assembly; *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall extend to officers in the militia, Justices of the Peace, Commissioners of Public Charities, or Commissioners for Special purposes."

Add another section to the fourteenth article to be styled "section 8," and to read as follows: "County officers, justices of the peace and other officers whose offices are abolished or changed in any way by the alteration of the constitution, shall continue to exercise their functions until any provisions necessary to be made by law in order to give full effect to the alteration so far as relates to said officers shall have been made."

Re-number the sections in those articles from which any section has been stricken without the insertion of another in its stead; and give to any new section that number which by this method would have been given to the section for which it is substituted, and the alterations shall be embodied into the constitution, and the several sections numbered consecutively.

The People's Press.

SALEM, N. C.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1872.
GEO. WALTER SITES,--EDITOR.

STATE CONVENTION.
The State Convention of the Democratic-Conservative Party of North Carolina will meet at GREENSBORO, on WEDNESDAY, the First day of MAY next.

Note carefully, kind reader, the matter contained in our political columns this week. The editor is still quite sick, confined to his room, unable to attend to his editorial duties, and we have been trying our hand by way of laying political facts before you for your careful consideration. From the present outlook we shall be enabled to keep up the interest of our political department, as matters of great moment are transpiring all over the country.

For instance: The Pittsburgh *Commercial*'s Washington correspondent says there seems to be good authority for the report that numerous frauds, implicating high officials, have been discovered by the Congressional Committee carrying on an investigation within the Treasury Department, &c., &c.

We have made arrangements to keep you thoroughly posted in regard to matters and things transpiring everywhere, and we hope to be able to show you that we are well disposed towards all people, and have as much "milk of human kindness" in our composition, as falls to the lot of most mortals.

We fully and unreservedly agree with a contemporary, that the "Conservative Democracy" are ready at any time to make common cause with all who stand fast by the Constitution, as against those who disregard it; with all who desire purity in the conduct of the Government as against the corruption which pervades departments of the present administration—in short, they are ready and anxious to gather into one grand army all who are in favor of reforming abuses and giving to the people a government worthy of this great Nation. They care not who may dispense offices, so the government be restored to its proper functions and the dangers which threaten in the shape of centralization and corruption be averted. To accomplish so desirable a result, they will make any sacrifice which is not a sacrifice of principle."

Liberal Republican Convention.

It always affords us extreme pleasure to chronicle anything that sounds liberal, from the tyrannical party in power. Last week we gave our readers some idea of which way the political current is running, and now hear that the gallant Missouri Republicans are doing; surely there is no mistaking the signs of the times. No wonder the Rads are starting new papers all over the country, from a fund set apart in Washington city for the purpose. They see the handwriting on the wall, and are trembling for fear of the reckoning which the people will soon demand at their hands. Unless a change in the management of affairs of the government soon takes place, the *Conservative* masses of the country, whose name is legion, will rise in their might and hurl from power those who have kept the country in a state of fears and doubts, ever since the close of the war.

Here are the proceedings of the gallant Missouri Liberal Republicans. Missouri numbers among her citizens thousands of old North Carolinians, who emigrated to that State. Hear what Missouri sends greeting:
LIBERAL REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.
Jefferson City, Mo., January 25.—The Liberal Republican Mass Convention, the largest ever assembled in this State, convened here to-day.

It was resolved that the same abuse of Government patronage for the control of Congress and elections, whether in interest of an individual faction, or of party, with its consequent corruption and demoralization of political life, demands thorough and genuine reform of public services. Those who would suppress investigation forget they owe higher duty to the country than to any party. It is time to stop the growing encroachment of executive powers for the use of coercion or bribery to ratify a tariff; the packing of Supreme Courts to relieve rich corporations and the seating of members of Congress.

We perceive that another step in the march of Radical centralization is contemplated by the party in power. The Federal Government is effectually to absorb the whole educational system of the country. The key-note for this move comes from Massachusetts, and one of our Representatives, Mr. Hoar, has introduced a bill in Congress, which is now in the hands of the Committee on Education and Labor, to effect the purpose. The bill sets apart the funds accruing from the sales of public land for the support of the schools, but no State shall be entitled to any part of this fund unless it submits its school system to the conditions prescribed by the head of the Education Bureau, which head is, of course, of the strictest radical stripe. The object of this invention is virtually to compel the States to open the schools to both whites and blacks indiscriminately.

Watch and wait. We shall endeavor to keep our readers well posted in political matters.

We do not like to call hard names; but if matters and things go on the way they are progressing now, if there won't be trouble in the radical camp next fall—a regular shaking among the dry bones—we are mistaken, that's all. There is every indication of encouragement for the Conservative Democratic party to rally and rescue the country from the misrule of the party in power. Read the following:

REPUBLICAN REFORM IN PENNSYLVANIA.
The fourth State senatorial district of Pennsylvania, in which the Republicans have a majority of 7,000, is not now represented in the State Senate, in consequence of the death of the sitting member. A nomination for the vacancy was made by the regular Republican organization some days ago, amid scenes of shocking ruffianism, protected by the new partisan police of Philadelphia. Three men were shot on the occasion. Disgusted with these proceedings, one thousand of the respectable Republicans of the district united in a letter asking Col. A. K. McClure to stand as their candidate. That gentleman accepted, and it is understood that the Democrats will not nominate. To politicians the contest acquires additional zest from the fact that Col. McClure is an anti-Grant Republican, having just 'put himself in the record' by writing a letter to the *Germanian* and *Telegraph* setting forth his objections to the President's re-nomination. Colonel McClure's opponent is Henry W. Gray, well known in Philadelphia as the "boss" of the municipal ring by which that city has been misgoverned and plundered of late years.

Mrs. Lee's Petition.
The New York *Commercial Advertiser* says: "The widow of General Lee still appeals for the value, or the restitution of the Arlington estates. The shortest way to settle this matter would be to pay her a fair price for the property. There is an equity involved, even granting that the government holds by a legal title, and we can better afford to allow the claimant some equivalent than refuse it." It is cheering to see from candid and courageous Republican journals a manly recognition of the justice and equity involved in this case. Now that the passions engendered by the late civil conflict are subsiding, and that the necessities of war which might have involved the occupation of Arlington, even if Gen. Lee had remained in the United States army, have so long ago ceased, it is to be hoped that Congress will render some sort of equivalent to Mrs. Lee for her property.—*Baltimore Sun*.

We endorse the above, and admit that there are isolated cases of liberal and well disposed Republicans and Republican Journals; but we have not much confidence in the ability of Congress for honesty and fair dealing, politically; much less that any favors will be shown in Mrs. Lee's case. Hope we may be mistaken.

COLD WEATHER.—The weather has been extremely cold during the past week, not only here but throughout the country. Last week, on Wednesday, snow fell for some time in Savannah, which is the first they have had for thirteen years. In New Orleans the day was the coldest of the season. At Selma, Alabama, the weather was "intensely cold," and they had the heaviest snow storm seen there for ten years. At Salt Lake City it was "bitingly cold," the thermometer falling to ten degrees below zero.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.—We publish in this issue the act recently passed by the Legislature, to amend the Constitution of the State. The people should make themselves familiar with the amendments proposed, and as it may not be convenient for us to publish this act more than once, our readers should preserve this paper.

The Supreme Court by a recent decision, has decided that Mayors and chief officers of cities and towns have jurisdiction as heretofore in criminal matters, as regards arresting and committing of offenders.

GRANT MAKES GOOD HIS DEFALCATION.—The President has given his check for \$5,000 to balance his little account which has been standing against him in the Treasury since he was an army officer, says the New York *World*.

We see nothing in the proceedings of Congress on the 27th, of interest.

LOOKOUT.—Counterfeit tens on the Poughkeepsie Bank are plentiful in New York.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

LOCAL ITEMS.

FIRE.—About midnight on Thursday last, a fire was discovered in Messrs. Fries' large Cotton Warehouse, a short distance from the Factory. Messrs. Fries have been burning their Mill day and night for some time, of course working two sets of hands, and just about the time for relieving one set, the fire was discovered, having already made considerable headway. The alarm was given, and with the assistance of a few neighbors, the flames were extinguished before any material damage was sustained. Dr. Shaffer's "Globe Extinguisher" in the hands of Messrs. Null and Ring, did good service on the occasion.

The fire originated in the wool-sorting room, where some hot ashes had been deposited in a wooden box, which caught fire and slowly burned through the floor, the cinders dropping into a lower room and lighting a lot of wool. If the fire had remained undiscovered fifteen minutes later, the Messrs. Fries would have sustained a heavy loss, as there was a considerable quantity of cotton, wool and cloth stored in the building.

This is another warning to the careless, and we hope that hot ashes will hereafter be put in safer places.

Persons cannot be too careful, as a small spark may kindle a great fire; and keeping hot ashes in wooden vessels should be made an unpardonable offence by our "city fathers." They have done worse things than pass an ordinance effectually preventing hot ashes to be stored in wooden vessels. All our citizens should look after their ash houses or vaults, and see that they are secure. Seriously speaking, only demented persons will fail to profit by the recent narrow escape from a serious conflagration.

It would also be well to be careful where you throw matches; be careful where you go with lamps and lanterns; be careful where you put your ashes; be careful about leaving a "roaring fire" in your stores when you leave your shops, stores or offices, or in your house when you retire at night; be thoughtful, lest you start the "fire fiend" in any way, that you can attach blame to yourself or others in their hour of loss and suffering, may trace the origin of their trouble to your carelessness.

Who Does Not Love Flowers?—Last week we hardly had time to examine Briggs & Bro's splendid Catalogue of Flower and Vegetable seeds, and now having given it a more careful examination, can speak of its merits with certainty. Its general appearance is attractive, and the contents are equally interesting and useful. Indeed we do not know how we could cultivate and take care of our flowers without its valuable hints. The illustrations are carefully taken from nature by competent artists, and the reader can therefore rely upon what he sees before him.

If you have not time to select your seeds, the catalogue provides for it on page 10. On page 9 there are club inducements.—But the arrangement and classifications is so complete that orders can be made with very little trouble, as everything is numbered, so that you can order by them without writing the full name of seeds wanted. Send money with order, (postal money order is best) and write address plain. We hope to see the culture of flowers and ornamental shrubs becoming more general in this section.

Send 25 cents for Catalogue, and on the receipt of a one dollar order the money will be refunded. Six beautiful colored plates and over four hundred superb wood cuts adorn this magnificent annual. Address Briggs & Brother, Rochester, N. Y.

THE DAYS LENGTHENING.—The days are now growing longer at the rate of about seventy-five seconds per day, and will continue to increase in the same ratio until June 21st, which is the longest day. Ratio of decrease will be about the same. The sun is returning northward, using the common phrase, to drive back Winter. The light will be full of storm and bluster, but steady old Sol will press old Boreas to the wall and wake up the flowers of Spring, and enamel the hills and vales with a refreshing verdure.

Senator Adams has favored us with the fourth annual report of the auditor of public accounts, being for receipts and disbursements of the Treasury for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1871.

THE DANBURY REPORTER is the title of a neatly printed and well conducted little paper just started at Danbury, Stokes county, by Pepper & Sons, to be devoted to the social, agricultural and mineral resources of that section. In politics it will be Conservative.

Mr. W. S. Ball has assumed editorial control of the *New North State* of Greensboro, which has been enlarged and greatly improved.

Weather very cold; ice 4 inches thick.

New Advertisements.
Every week brings something new.—J. L. Falkerson.

Rev. J. Henry Smith will Lecture on the 8th inst.

Valentines, cheap at the Book Store.

Arrests of persons charged with kidnapping continue to be made in Cleveland county by Deputy United States Marshal and soldiers.

Supreme Court.
The only decision reported of interest in this section is State vs. L. W. Fullop, from Forsyth. Error, New trial.

Pears and potatoes are being planted in Newbern.

